This Index is not widely accepted as it is subjective, does not provide use based risk and has other limitations. The study also does not report individual parameters used for the index in respect of which Indian water quality standards have been notified.

The other major findings of the World Bank sponsored study broadly relate to water shortages and flooding, urban outdoor air pollution, indoor air pollution, solid waste, land degradation and forest & biodiversity loss. Government is addressing these problems through the enforcement of various statutory provisions and through programmes implemented by different departments.

Consideration of Disinvestment of NFL

*79. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the consideration of disinvestment of National Fertilizer Ltd. has been put-off for two years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) was Government able to secure bids for reserve price; and

(d) if not, steps being taken to improve the performance of NFL to attract better offers?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise in view of reply to (a) above.

(c) Reserve price of National Fertilizers Ltd. (NFL) has not been finalized.

(d) Does not arise in view of reply to (c) above.

Public Sector investment in agriculture production

*80. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the agriculture production in the country is showing a downward trend since 1991 particularly after 1996-97;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Public Sector investment in agriculture declined considerably during this period;